

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 COME-00 CG-00 DOTE-00 FMC-02

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DLOS-09 OES-09 L-03

PA-02 ICA-20 /074 W

-----022063 100156Z /70

R 081727Z SEP 78

FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0805

UNCLAS MONROVIA 6633

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BTRA (MANFREDI, DOMINIC), EWWT, LI

SUBJECT: VISIT OF SHIPPING CONFERENCE OFFICIAL

REF: STATE 227167

1. POST WELCOMES VISIT BY THE NEW CHAIRMAN OF THE AMERICAN WEST AFRICAN FREIGHT CONFERENCE (AWAFC). EMBASSY WILL BE PLEASED TO ASSIST. WE HOPE HE WILL SET ASIDE TIME TO MEET WITH KEY EMBASSY STAFF.

2. MANFREDI SHOULD KNOW THAT NUMBER ONE ISSUE ON MINDS OF LIBERIAN OFFICIALS IS RECENT (JUNE 19) DECISION BY AWAFC TO INCREASE PORT DIFFERENTIAL FOR MONROVIA BY (ALLEGEDLY) \$8.00 PER TON. THIS IS SAID TO HAVE BEEN ACCOMPLISHED BY REDESIGNATING MONROVIA AS A "GROUP IV PORT" RATHER THAN "GROUP II" CLASSIFICATION IT HAD HAD FOR SOME YEARS. LETTER DATED AUGUST 22 ADDRESSED TO MANFREDI'S PREDECESSOR, JOHN K. CUNNINGHAM, FROM MINISTER OF COMMERCE, INDUSTRY AND TRANSPORTATION, DAVID G. MOORE, CHARACTERIZED THIS INCREASE AS: QUOTE DISCRIMINATORY, UTTERLY WITHOUT REASON, AND UNJUSTIFIABLE UNQUOTE.

3. MINISTER MOORE UNDERLINED HIS CONCERN TO CHARGE  
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AND ECONOMIC/COMERCIAL COUNSELOR DURING A CALL ON HIS SEPTEMBER 7. HE EVIDENTLY SUSPECTS THAT LOSS OF RUBBER EXPORT TRADE TO NONCONFERENCE VESSELS OWNED OR CHARTERED BY FIRESTONE LIES BEHIND THE AWAFC DECISION, BUT HE CONTENDS THAT THIS DOES NOT JUSTIFY IT. HE SEEKS A ROLLBACK OF THE INCREASE; IF HE DOES NOT GET IT, HE TOLD CHARGE THAT LIBERIA MIGHT TURN

INCREASINGLY TO NONCONFERENCE VESSELS.

4. EMBASSY WOULD WELCOME A FILL-IN BY AWAFK ON THE  
PRECISE NATURE OF THE CHANGE AND THE REASONING BEHIND  
IT.

WALKER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** VISITS, PORTS, STEAMSHIP LINES  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 08 sep 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Subject:** VISIT OF SHIPPING CONFERENCE OFFICIAL  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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